

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 232000Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8081

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1833

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM CHARGE'D'AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TD, US

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES IN TRINIDAD-US
RELATIONS.

REF: STATE 172095

1. THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES LISTED REFTEL ARE HERE
ANNOTATED AS TO NATURE AND DEGREE OF EFFECT RESULT
INDICATED WOULD HAVE ON USG RELATIONS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOGABO:

DEVELOPMENT EFFECT DEGREE

(1) DISMANTLE OAS SANCTIONS POSITIVE MODERATE
AT SAN JOSE

(2) RECIPROCAL US-CUBA MOVES POSITIVE MINOR

(3) NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY POSITIVE MODERATE

(4) BREAKDOWN OF TREATY NEGATIVE SERIOUS
NEGOTIATIONS AND ACUTE

(5) FAILURE TO GET OPEC EXCLUSION
REMOVED FROM GSP EGATIVE MODERATE

2. AS THE ABOVE TABLE INDICATES, THE MOST SERIOUS
DEVELOPMENT FOR USG-GOTT RELATIONS WOULD BE A BREAKDOWN
OF PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS FOR USG FAILURE TO RATIFY A
TREATY NEGOTIATED. WE BELIEVE BOTH OFFICAL AND UNOFFICIAL
REACTION HERE WOULD BE SHARP, ALTHOUGH MITIGATED SOMEWHAT
IF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTINUED TO PRESS STRONGLY AND
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FORTHRIGHTLY FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA, IN FACE

OF AN INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL FAILURE TO RATIFY. ANY APPARENT LACK OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH ZEAL, HOWEVER, WOULD REMOVE THE MITIGATING ELEMENT. THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE IS VIEWED HERE AS KEY INDICATOR OF WHETHER USG REALLY INTENDS TO ACT ON ITS VERBAL COMMITMENTS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW AND MORE DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LDC'S WHICH RESPECTS THEIR NEW INTERNATIONAL PRIDE, OR WHETHER WE WILL REVERT TO THE BIG STICK AND ESSENTIALLY REPRESENT FOR THEM A POWERFUL BUT REACTIONARY FORCE WHICH MUST BE OPPOSED AT EVERY TURN.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT AN OPEC MEMBER, TRINIDAD REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST THE OPEC EXCLUSION WHEN THE TRA BECAME LAW, AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO JOIN OR SUPPORT LATIN AMERICA OR OTHER THIRD WORLD NATIONS IN CONDEMNING USG IF OPEC EXCLUSION IS NOT REMOVED FROM GSP.
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